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DATE: 1/28/02FAX #: 1-202-307-1454TO: MS Freedom to Innovate NetworksATTENTION: John Ashcroft, Attorney GeneralNUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 2FROM: Margit Coukermastz
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Mark Coutermarsh

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January 27, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

This letter is to ask you to give your support to the proposed agreement between the Department of Justice and Microsoft. I understand there is a 60-day period in which public comment is allowed, and I feel it is my duty to encourage your support of this agreement. There is no need for any further Federal action.

Microsoft has provided so much to this country through creating jobs and opening the way for technological innovation in the software industry. I don't feel it should be punished for its success at the expense of weak competition. The agreed terms provide a major opening for other players to build market share and should be quite satisfactory to Microsoft's opponents. Software developers will benefit from access to Windows internal interfaces and server protocols and will even be able to license Microsoft technology while marketing themselves without obstacles due to computer maker's business limitations.

Please move forward with this plan and allow the competition to prove their worth in the software market without the industry disruption of a corporate break up. Our economy will respond, and so will the general public, to this very fair decision being implemented without further delay. I appreciate your support.

Sincerely,



Mark Coutermarsh